

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 as follows:

The first coating layer of the catalytic converter contains Pd as supported on Al_2O_3 . Since Pd provides a good catalytic activity at low temperature, the catalytic converter is capable of effectively cleaning exhaust gas at low temperature by removal of HC in particular. Since alumina provides excellent heat resistance, Pd supported on Al_2O_3 remains stable at high temperature. Further inclusion of Pd in the ~~second~~ first coating layer which is formed inside the ~~first~~ second coating layer prevents Pd from being adversely affected by poisoning substances contained in the exhaust gas.